The Ballarat Naturalist

Volume 25 No.08

September 2025

Yolngu Relationship with Country: Reflections for Ballarat Field Naturalists Stuart Porteous

My recent presentation was necessarily personal. After 20 years of learning from Yolngu communities, I've come to understand that genuine cultural insight requires us to examine our own filters and biases, moving beyond the role of external observer to one of respectful participant in authentic relationship.

What I found most challenging about presenting on Yolngu relationship with Country was the interconnected nature of everything within their worldview - you cannot discuss their connection to land without also addressing kinship systems, ceremonial obligations, ancestral law, totemic relationships, and spiritual responsibilities. Unlike Western thinking, which tends to compartmentalise these elements, Yolngu understanding sees them as inseparable aspects of a unified whole.

For a Western mind conditioned to linear thinking and categorical divisions - where we might study ecology separately from spirituality, or land management apart from social structures - grasping this holistic integration requires a fundamental shift in how we process information and understand relationships. It's not simply learning new facts, but learning an entirely different way of knowing that challenges the very foundations of how we've been taught to understand the world.

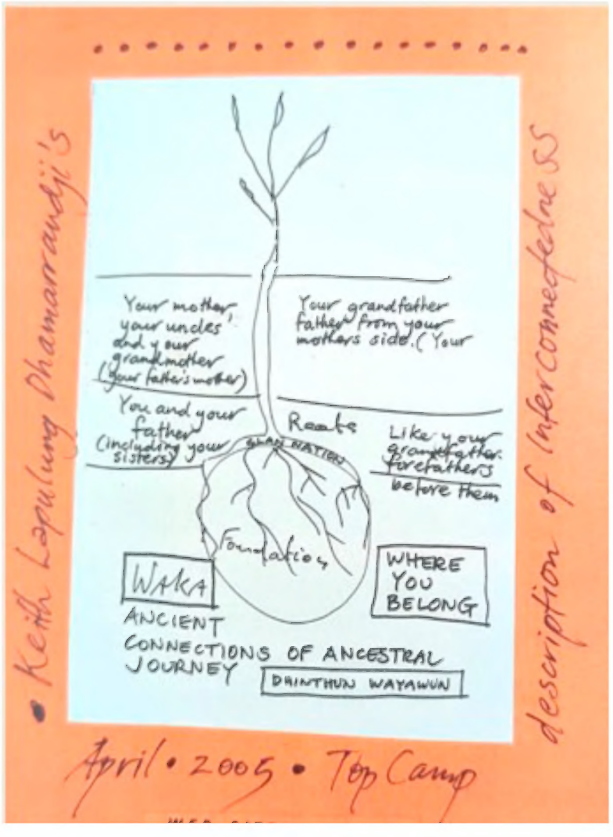
We have a lot to learn. We have a lot to unlearn.

Understanding Connection to Country
For Yolngu people, country is not something to be merely observed, studied, or owned—it's a living entity to which they belong as much as it belongs to them. In Yolngu Matha (language), the phrase "Ngayunghirrpanmirr romgu" expresses this beautifully: "romgu" means "it is the law," and the remainder translates to "everything is interconnected." This isn't philosophical theory—it's lived daily reality where every plant, animal, and person exists in conscious relationship.

Ancestral and Totemic Relationships

The Djunggawul Sisters Creation Stories
Yolngu connection to country begins with ancestral creation stories. The Djunggawul Sisters, as ancient beings, sang and named every feature across Arnhem Land into existence. These aren't myths but living truths that give spiritual meaning to all natural features—every waterhole, rock formation, and tree has ancestral significance.

Totemic Identity When I was adopted by Lapulung Dhamarrandji in 2001, I received the Yolngu name Dhanbaniny Wanybarrnga Dhamarrandji. This name immediately identifies my totem, country, and tribal connections. Every Yolngu person's name similarly links them to specific animals, plants, and places. For example, if crocodiles are your totem, you don't fear them—you understand your kinship relationship and share responsibility for their wellbeing.


Keith Lapulung Dhamarrandji's
description of interconnectedness
Your mother, your uncles and your grandmother (your father's mother)
Your grandfather father from your mothers side. (Your
You and your father (including your sisters)
Roots
Like your grandfather forefathers before them
Foundation
WAKA
ANCIENT CONNECTIONS OF ANCESTRAL JOURNEY
DHIMHUN WAYAWUN
WHERE YOU BELONG
April • 2005 • Top Camp

Ceremonial Burning Yolngu communities practice sophisticated traditional burning regimes that have maintained healthy ecosystems for thousands of years. These controlled burns reduce fuel loads, promote new growth for wildlife, and maintain the mosaic landscapes that support biodiversity. The timing and location of burns are determined by seasonal indicators, ancestral law, and detailed ecological knowledge passed down through generations.

Sustainable Harvesting Hunting and gathering practices follow strict protocols that ensure species sustainability. Yolngu law dictates which animals can be taken at what times, how many, and by whom. Certain areas are permanently protected, while others have seasonal restrictions based on breeding cycles and population health.

Sacred Site Protection Many areas of country are sacred and completely protected from interference. These sites often coincide with critical habitats, water sources, or breeding grounds, creating an indigenous protected area network that has maintained ecological integrity for millennia.

Cultural Responsibilities as Conservation Practice

Teaching and Knowledge Transfer Elders systematically teach younger generations about country through story, song, and direct

experience. This includes detailed ecological knowledge about plant uses, animal behaviour, weather patterns, and seasonal changes. Children learn to read the land as we might read a book—understanding the relationships between all living things.

Spiritual Obligations Maintaining connection to country through ceremony and cultural practice isn't just tradition—it's understood as essential for the land's continued health. When cultural obligations aren't fulfilled, Yolngu believe both the people and the country suffer. This creates a powerful conservation ethic based on reciprocal responsibility rather than external regulation.

Lessons for Contemporary Land Relationship

Beyond Observation to Participation While field naturalists excel at careful observation and documentation, Yolngu culture demonstrates the value of understanding ourselves as participants within ecological systems rather than external observers. This shift from studying nature to belonging within it can deepen our conservation efforts.

Integrated Knowledge Systems Yolngu knowledge integrates spiritual, cultural, and ecological understanding - elements that Western science typically ignores or separates. Their land management success suggests value in approaching conservation through multiple knowledge systems working together.

Long-term Thinking Decisions about country are made considering impacts on future generations and the continuation of cultural and ecological relationships. This contrasts with short-term management cycles common in Western conservation practice.

Implications for Field Naturalists
When Yolngu people are separated from country for extended periods – living in urban areas or unable to practice traditional land management – both the people and the country suffer measurably. This demonstrates the profound effectiveness of human-nature relationships based on belonging rather than ownership.
For field naturalists, this raises important questions: How might we develop deeper reciprocal relationships with the places we study? What would conservation look like if we understood ourselves as belonging to the land rather than managing it? How can we support Indigenous land management practices that have proven sustainable over thousands of years? Yolngu culture offers not just alternative

conservation methods, but a fundamentally different way of being in relationship with the natural world – one that we as field naturalists are uniquely positioned to appreciate and learn from.

For a copy of Stuart's more personal Yolngu journey presentation (50+ slides) or more information about the Black Hill Microforest and the national Microforest Collective, please contact Stuart at stuart@wellbeingdesign.studio or 0437 333 377

PRELIMINARY RESOURCES:
https://youtu.be/ytfqf1LWdQI?si=OvERHlBxQJPlQCZS
YouTube: Look up
Riyawarray Channel - Video title: 'Riyawarray Common Ground'

Video of my Yolngu brother (wawa) Lapulung Dhamarrandji (on my back deck) and my Yolngu mother (ngama) requesting the John Howard government to consider Yolngu Law (Rom) of 60 000+ years, equal to balanda (non-indigenous) during the period of the Northern Territory Intervention 2007

This is a 3 month daily full ceremony demonstrating the highest parliamentary level within Yolngu Culture held at Milingimbi Community (Yurrwi Island)

https://youtu.be/G53-xtC2rz4?si=ypE4Z9GTuLlaP80N
YouTube: Look up
Riyawarray Channel – Video title: 'Second Coming by Keith Lapulung'
Lapulung Dhamarrandji who started the first indigenous cultural music festival in the NT (In the NT Hall of Fame) at Milingimbi, on Yurrwi Island 40 years ago. Here singing a Christian song in Yolngu Matha on my back deck in 2007, demonstrating the Yolngu capacity to adapt their spirituality through a variety of expressions.

'Why Warriors Lay Down and Die' Richard Trudgen
(Amazon) Towards an understanding of why Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land face the greatest crisis in health and education since European contact.

Richard runs seminars teaching about Yolngu culture in every major Australian city
More information: www.whywarriors.com.au

The BASKET WEAVING Metaphor

by **Ganygulpa Dhurrkay**

Senior Cultural Education Adviser
Milingimbi Community Education Centre
Yurrwi Island / Crocodile Islands
Northern Territory

It starts first from the head and heart.

Then the trip to the bush to collect the pandanas, collecting roots for dying; the stripping, soaking then creating the starting ring……

Each ring is carefully built up of layer upon layer of knowledge, of wisdom, of devotion, of commitment, of experience, of listening, of laughter, of family, of shared stories, of silences and the sounds of children playing… of Unhurried Time…

Beginning from well-placed strands, the basket evolves, gradually emerging to become the unique, beautiful and practical artefact, which sat in our heads and hearts; something we can use every day. Even though it came from an idea, until it is finished it is always open to being adapted as different things happen. In Yolngu culture the basket (bathi) is a symbol for a woman, the bearer of men and children.

If it is made properly and strong, the baby it carries is safe…but if it is loose and torn and a hole develops, the baby can fall out….Something's wrong!!!

It needs to be made strong…

Every layer needs to be made strong…

English clarifications in collaboration with Stuart Porteous (Dhanbaniny Wanybarrnga Dhamarrandji)
Evolved through 24 cross-cultural educating partners for/from the CCCP Cross-Cultural Collaboration Project February 2008
A state-wide project to assist the implementation of powerful induction processes for NT educators.

Meredith Police Paddocks rim walk with tree plantings Carol H

Meredith, Steiglitz and Brisbanes Ranges excursion

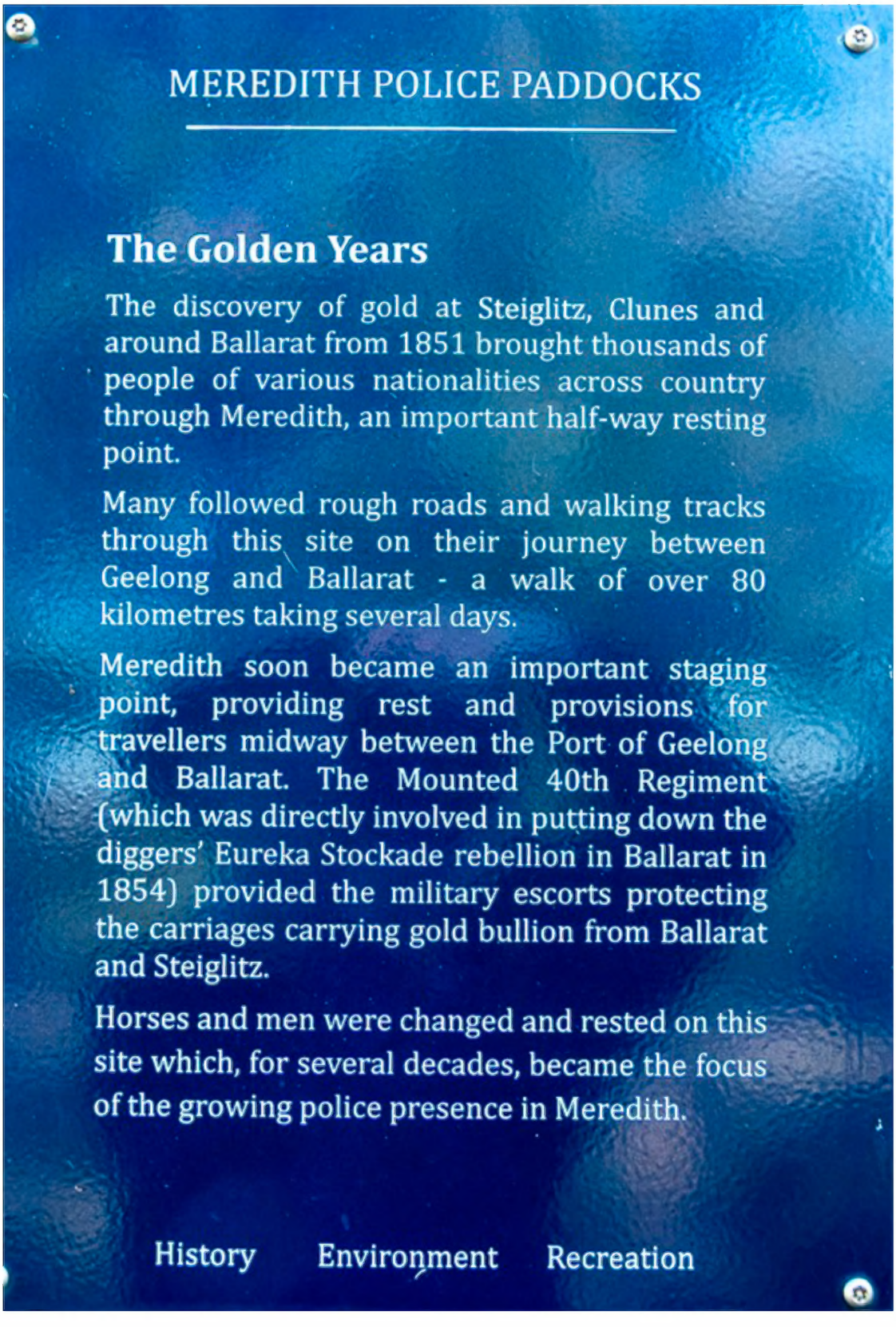
Leader: Neville Oddie Date Sunday 3rd August

This excursion took in four sites in this area which are of particular interest and being loosely around the junction of the western volcanic plains and the Brisbane Ranges. At all sites, boot washing was conducted before entering to inhibit spread of the Cinnamon fungus.

Meredith Police Paddocks Reserve

Meeting at the entrance to the Meredith Police Paddocks Reserve, the group of around twenty took a walk along the "rim" walk, which allowed a good view of the physical layout of the area, where the Coolebarghurk Creek descends from a surface creek into a deep cutting and makes its tortuous way southwards along a stony bed to the east of the valley: the overflow which occurs with flooding was also clearly visible on a flood plain, where Spiny-headed Matt-rush was in evidence. Due to the grazing that occurred for over a century in its prior use for horse grazing, many non-indigenous weeds have invaded where once volcanic plains grassy woodland predominated. However, some Common Tussock grass *Poa labillardieri* and Kangaroo grass still grows, and the active management group have replanted indigenous species of woodland trees and shrubs along the rim, which has resulted in considerable growth of native trees and bushes. One large old gum with a split trunk was seen on the western rim. The hillock with a complex geological history was also clearly visible below, but not inspected. Some members descended the steep valley near the entrance to the creek area where native Swamp gums and other eucalypts grow.

Panorama – view from rim walk Carol H


MEREDITH POLICE PADDOCKS
The Golden Years
The discovery of gold at Steiglitz, Clunes and around Ballarat from 1851 brought thousands of people of various nationalities across country through Meredith, an important half-way resting point.
Many followed rough roads and walking tracks through this site on their journey between Geelong and Ballarat - a walk of over 80 kilometres taking several days.
Meredith soon became an important staging point, providing rest and provisions for travellers midway between the Port of Geelong and Ballarat. The Mounted 40th Regiment (which was directly involved in putting down the diggers' Eureka Stockade rebellion in Ballarat in 1854) provided the military escorts protecting the carriages carrying gold bullion from Ballarat and Steiglitz.
Horses and men were changed and rested on this site which, for several decades, became the focus of the growing police presence in Meredith.
History
Environment
Recreation

Meredith State Forest

On this largely uncleared reserve, used largely for firewood gathering since colonial times, the remnant indigenous woodland has areas with dense growth of Tea-tree *Leptospermum,* and semi-open areas with mossy and small plant cover. We drove through an area of healthy looking Grass trees. Emerging new season growth, yet to

flower, included the Tall Greenhood, the Nodding Greenhood and the Scented Sundew. There were multiple recent echidna scratchings, and a couple of Eastern Grey kangaroos quickly departed. Numerous fungi were seen- see list. Birds observed were the White-throated treecreeper, the Crimson Rosella and Blue Fairy-wrens. This reserve adjoins the Moorabool River, which flows into a deep valley and which was crossed on our way to the next stop.

Bert Boardman Reserve, Steiglitz

Our lunch stop was taken in this once highly active gold mining area. Forays into the dry sclerophyll woodland produced interesting sightings of fungi and plants, which included: Large and small Horse -dropping fungi, numerous Grass trees, Hakea, Golden Grevillea, patches of Nodding Greenhoods, Tall Greenhoods in flower, Common Heath, Cherry Ballart and Mistletoe, a few bursting Golden wattle flowers, a River Red gum seedling.

Golden Grevillea (*Grevillea chrysophaea*) Angela A

Brisbane Ranges National Park

Our next stop was near Alliance Track/Hut Road off the Steiglitz-Durdiwarrah Road within the Brisbane Ranges National Park, where on a walk to the west we observed a sizeable bank of Fuzzy Reindeer Lichen , Nodding Greenhood orchids, bursting Golden wattle, Grass trees including the remnant ring of what had once been

an enormous trunk, and medium height eucalypts in an open woodland area. This area had been hugely disturbed by the gold rushes in the nineteenth century and mounds and depressions dot the landscape. By the side of one mound, Austral bracken grew.

At this point we thanked Neville for leading us on a well researched and productive day in the winter sunshine.
A few of the group made one final stop along Hut Road at The Crossing Picnic Area for a quick look before heading home.
Report by Elva Bird

Golden Wattle
(Acacia pycnantha)
Angela A

Fuzzy Reindeer Lichen
Cladonia confusa
Carol H

Trim Greenhood *Pterostylis concinna Drew B*

Emperor Cortinar
Cortinarius archeri

Scented Sundews were also in flower in a few areas
Val H

List of species recorded, field trip to Meredith and Steiglitz area, Sunday 3 August 2025

Meredith Police Paddocks

Crested Pigeon	*Ocyphaps lophotes*
Eastern Spinebill	*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
Galah	*Eolophus roseicapilla*
Masked Lapwing	*Vanellus miles*
Spotted Pardalote	*Pardalotus punctatus*
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	*Cacatua galerita*
Superb Fairy-wren	*Malurus cyaneus*
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*
Spotted Marsh Frog	*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*
Drooping Mistletoe	*Amyema pendula*
Manna Gum	*Eucalyptus viminalis*
**Serrated Tussock	*Nassella trichotoma*
Silver Tussock	*Poa labillardierei*
Extensive plantings	

Off Davies Road, Meredith

Eastern Grey Kangaroo	*Macropus giganteus*
Eastern Yellow Robin	*Eopsaltria australis*
Grey Shrike-thrush	*Colluricincla harmonica*
Lorikeet spp.	
Scarlet Robin	*Petroica boodang*
White-throated Treecreeper	*Cormobates leucophaea*
White-eared Honeyeater	*Nesoptilotis leucotis*
Austral Grass-tree	*Xanthorrhoea australis*
Black-anther Flax-lily	*Dianella revoluta*
Cherry Ballart	*Exocarpos cupressiformis*
Daisy spp.	*Brachyscome spp.*
Golden Wattle	*Acacia pycnantha*
Hedge Wattle	*Acacia paradoxa*
Kidney Weed	*Dichondra repens*
Kunzea spp.	*Kunzea ericoides*
Mat-rush spp.	*Lomandra spp.*
Messmate Stringybark	*Eucalyptus obliqua*
Scented Sundew	*Drosera aberrans*
Tall Greenhood	*Pterostylis melagramma*
Moss	*Rosulabryum billardierei*
Emperor Cortinar	*Cortinarius archeri*

Bert Boardman Reserve, Steiglitz

Eastern Spinebill	*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
Koala	*Phascolarctos cinereus*
Austral Grass-tree	*Xanthorrhoea australis*
Brown Stringybark	*Eucalyptus baxteri*
Bushy Needlewood	*Hakea decurrens*
Common Flat-pea	*Platylobium obtusangulum*
Cranberry Heath	*Styphelia humifusa*
Dusty Miller	*Spyridium parvifolium*
Dwarf Greenhood	*Pterostylis nana*
Gnat Orchid	*Cyrtostylis spp.*
Golden Grevillea	*Grevillea chrysophaea*
Heath Myrtle	*Baeckea virgata*
Nodding Greenhood	*Pterostylis nutans*
Prickly Cryptandra	*Cryptandra tomentosa*
Rough Wattle	*Acacia aspera*
Scented Sundew	*Drosera aberrans*
Sun Orchid (leaf only)	*Thelymitra spp.*
Trim Greenhood	*Pterostylis concinna*
Bolete fungi	*Boletus spp.*
Horse Dung-type Fungi	Unknown
Webcap fungi	*Cortinarius spp.*

Hut Road, Steiglitz Historic Park

Golden Wattle	A*cacia pycnantha*
Manna Gum	*Eucalyptus viminalis*
Messmate	*Eucalyptus obliqua*
Nodding Greenhood	*Pterostylis nutans*
Red Box	*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*
Scentbark	*Eucalyptus aromaphloia*
**Serrated Tussock	*Nassella trichotoma*
Yellow Star	*Pauridia glabella*
Coral lichen	*Pulchrocladia retipora*
Fuzzy Reindeer Lichen	*Cladonia confusa*

Police Paddocks Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*

Angela A

Tall Greenhood
Pterostylis melagramma

Val H

A bryophyte *billardierei'/ billarderi*'. Roger T says he hasn't seen it before in the Ballarat area. It is a new one for me and we often go to the Brisbane Ranges. -Susan Kruss

Excerpts from the FNCB Club Meeting Minutes held 7.30pm, August 1st, 2025 Held in person and via Zoom

Attendance: Club President Neville Oddie welcomed 20 members and 5 visitors attending the meeting in person and another 12 members attending via Zoom
Apologies: Drew Billinghurst and Mark Moravec.

Guest Speaker: Stuart Porteous presented his fascinating "Perceptions of Yolngu (pronounced *Yool-ng-or*) relations with Country: Insights from 21 years in Arnhem Land". John Petheram has kindly volunteered to write-up this presentation for the newsletter with Stuart's assistance.

Business Arising from Previous Club Meeting on June 6, 2025

- The follow-up letter to again request the permanent, immediate end to recreational duck-hunting in Victoria, as approved by members at the July Club Meeting, has been sent to the Minister for Environment, The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP. An automatic reply has been received.

Business Arising from Correspondence:

- A submission has been drafted by Alasdair, Emily and Sheree to the Premier Jacinta Allan, Ripon MP Martha Haylett and the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulous calling for the urgent legislation of Central West Parks as per the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's recommendations (2019) accepted by the Government in 2021. Members were invited to provide feedback; no amendments were proposed. Neville noted that he had submitted suggestions to Sheree, who confirmed their appropriateness. Neville read the edits aloud, and the document was formally endorsed by all members. Emily to submit.

•FNCB's "Annual Information Statement" has been lodged with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

• FNCB's membership of the Victorian Environment Friends Network has been renewed.

- Application from Hilda Gregory to become a member. Hilda shared her thoughts that the natural environment is so wonderful, with a wonderful variety of life that changes over the season. She stated having always been fascinated with the natural world.

Motion: That Hilda Gregory's FNCB membership application be accepted. **Approved.**

- Stuart Porteous stated that he too would like to become a member – With much delight the Secretary immediately provided him with an

application form.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report (read by Emily because Kathy's zoom connection was poor):

Opening bal. as at July 4, 2025: $15,201.19
Income $2,824.40
Expenses: $66.70
Closing bal.: $17,958.89

Treasurer's DBB Income/Expenses Report
Total Income: $10,800 Total Expenses: $6,118.75
Current Profit: $4,681.25

SEANA Spring Camp Income/ Expenses Report
Total Income: $6,194.00 Total Expenses: $400.00
Current Position: $5,794.00

Motion: That the Treasurer's Reports be accepted & tabled invoices be approved for payment. **Carried.**

SEANA Spring Camp 2025 Update:

From Emily: Quick summary: Just over 60 registrants so far; 11 different clubs represented. Kathy has been doing an amazing job of recording all the registrations, dietary requirements, etc. She has also been pulling information together for the field trips, so most of the scopes are in for these now. We are putting info together for a second circular that will come out in Sept. Hoping to have everything finalised by end of August. Sub-committee meeting once a month to keep things ticking over – when there are more jobs to allocate (e.g. volunteers), will send a message out. We will need all hands on-deck as it's going to be a big event.

From Andy: Andy will be doing a partial recce of the Lal Lal area on Monday 4th of August. He is hoping to do other sites in a couple of weeks. He will keep members updated with his progress. Alasdair, Sue & Emily offered to assist with the recce of Illabarook grassland sites.

From Neville: Neville attended the first SEANA General Committee meeting, which included several new members. The primary focus of the meeting was to finalise the rules of the organisation. A draft set of rules has been prepared and will require endorsement from each affiliated Field Naturalists Club; this is likely to be presented at our next meeting. Neville provided an update on the SEANA Camp. SEANA is planning future events, with the 2026 spring camp proposed to be held in Castlemaine. He noted that many

clubs are currently struggling with declining membership, which affects their capacity and experience to host camps. There was discussion around how the SEANA Committee might support smaller clubs in building membership and increasing their capacity to organise events.

General Business
Sunday 3rd August field trip, 9.30am–4pm: "Meredith Police Paddocks, Steiglitz Historical Park and Brisbane Ranges National Park" to be led by Neville Oddie.

Show & Tell/ Field Reports
Val: On the second-last page of the August 2025 newsletter, Val included information about the rare and historically significant two volume "Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen" books that are being exhibited at the Ballarat Library. These volumes offer valuable insight into the flora of Australia prior to the gold rush (1780s). Having been restored, they are now part of the library's archives. A special introduction event was held by the library, attended by Val, Roger and other members. The books are based on very old manuscripts that have been compiled into published form. Unfortunately, the original plant specimens referenced in the books were accidentally destroyed. Though they survived until 2019, they were never properly documented. Only eight copies of these books exist worldwide, making Ballarat's possession of one set particularly special. The texts are written in Latin and feature superb botanical images. The books will remain on display at the library for a few more weeks. If you have the opportunity, they are well worth viewing. There may also be a chance to arrange a meeting next year to explore the pages more closely.

Roger: Grey Shrike-thrush have started singing again. Brush Bronzewing have started hooting again, indicating that spring is on its way. Cootamundra Wattles are late this year; Roger has normally seen them flowering by now. He hasn't seen a Silver Wattle or Golden Wattle flowering yet either.

Peter D: Yesterday, on the western side of Durham Point at Lake Wendouree, Peter and Claire observed rakali foraging. They were able to get within about 2m of it to watch it for quite some time.

Claire: Claire and Peter also observed Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in a patch of trees in front of the shop in Miners Rest. They drove up, got a bit closer, and took some photos.

Neville & Kate: A pair of young Wedge-tailed Eagles appear to have taken up residence in a tree in their paddock. They have also noticed that the Tree Violet hasn't flowered on their Chepstowe farm yet; not even an indication of flowers. The Tree Violet usually flowers on the block at the beginning of July.

Emily: Emily found Wire-leaf Mistletoe with fruit on it, which was quite the delight as she had never seen the fruit before. She also explored the gully of Misery Creek (dry at the moment) at Surface Point Picnic Ground, Enfield State Park, where there were beautiful mossy logs. Here, she discovered some Pixie's Parasols, *Mycena interrupta* – the first recording for Enfield SP to her knowledge.

Stuart Porteous: Stuart provided an update on the microforest project being developed near the Black Hill Post Office. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving Wadawurrung, the City of Ballarat and students from Black Hill Primary School and another local primary school. It will span three years. The project engages children in both the design and implementation stages. It aims to create cool, controlled microclimates through the dense planting of carefully selected indigenous species. The project is still in its early stages. Wadawurrung are currently exploring their role in the project, emphasising collaboration rather than consultation.

Next Meeting: "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- Research, monitoring, likely impacts and mitigation measures" to be presented by Pam Whitely, Wildlife Health Victoria: Surveillance Coordinator, University of Melbourne.
Please consider volunteering to write-up this presentation for the newsletter (contact Emily to volunteer).

When? Friday 5th September 2025, 7.30pm in person at the Federation University building at the corner of Gillies St & Gregory St, Wendouree or via Zoom if you prefer.

Meeting closed: 9.19pm. Followed by Supper

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60 DAYS TO GO! □□♀□
The GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ 2025
Join the Ballarat Region project here:
https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2025-ballarat-region October 24–27, 2025 — Observation Period
□□ Upload & ID period ends November 10, 2025

Ballarat SEANA 17-19th Oct

Have you registered for the weekend yet? We still have a few vacancies including for the evening dinners which will be limited to 90 people.
The 2nd/ final circular will be sent out early Sept to those who have registered.

We are also needing volunteers to assist with registrations on the Friday afternoon. Please contact Kathy if you can assist.

Noting that there is no Field Trip on the first weekend in October. Excursion leaders/ facilitators may like to use that time to do final planning for their SEANA excursions.

Our next club meeting is Fri 5th Sept in person at the Federation University building at the corner of Gillies St & Gregory St, Wendouree and by Zoom if you prefer.
Subject—Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- Research, monitoring, likely impacts and mitigation measures" to be presented by Pam Whitely, Wildlife Health Victoria: Surveillance Coordinator, University of Melbourne.

Please consider volunteering to write-up this presentation for the newsletter (contact Emily to volunteer).

Saturday 6th September field trip- 9.30am – 4.30pm: "Long Forest" led by Emily Noble and Marilyn Hewish.

Meet at the Federation University carpark on the corner of Gillies St and Gregory St, Wendouree for carpooling (where possible) or convoy Departure will be at 9.30am sharp.
Further details will be given before or at our Friday meeting..
Wear weather-appropriate clothes and clean, sturdy shoes. Bring water, camera, small mirror, field guides, binoculars, morning tea, lunch, thermos and camp chair.
N.B.: Please bring a cash contribution for your driver if you intend to carpool.

A volunteer is still needed to write up this field trip please

Meetings and Excursions

Fri Sept 5th Pam Whiteley, Wildlife Health Victoria: Surveillance Coordinator, Uni. of Melbourne *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - research, monitoring, likely impacts and mitigation measures*.
Sat Sept 6th Field trip with Marilyn Hewish, Long Forest in Spring

Future events
Fri Oct 3rd Barry Golding *Six Peaks Speak*
No 1st weekend Field Trip

Ballarat SEANA 17th to 19th October
Great Southern BioBlitz Oct 24th to 27th

Volunteers are needed to write up these events for our newsletter please.

Next Committee meeting Tues Sept 23rd at 7.30 pm on zoom

Club meetings are normally held on 1st Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Federation Uni Gillies St Campus (corner of Gillies and Gregory Sts, Lake Wendouree),

Committee

President	Neville Oddie
Secretary	Emily Noble
Treasurer	Kathy Elder
Committee	Andy Arnold
	Val Hocking
	Sheree Cartledge
	Max Thompson
	Alasdair Wardle
	Sue Grey-Smith

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Email: Secretary:- Emily Noble
Editor: Val Hocking
Treasurer Kathy Elder
Website: http://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com
Club email: ballaratfnc@gmail.com
Meetings - in person and may continue to be held via Zoom.
Members will be kept informed of arrangements each month.

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